Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Waukesha	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the south side of Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Waukesha, the Lain house is a stately white frame building, Greek Revival in style. The main block is rectangular, five bays wide (east-west) by three bays deep, and two and one-half stories in height, surmounted by a low-pitched gabled roof with ridge parallel to Wisconsin Avenue. Focal point of the symmetrical facade (north elevation) is a full-height pedimented portico of four slender Doric columns. The central entrance is a rectangular door with narrow sidelights and transom and shouldered architrave trim surmounted by a cornice. Window openings are rectangular, with shouldered architrave trim and shutters. There are slim Doric pilasters at the corners of east, west, and north elevations and flanking the center bays of the facade. On the east elevation is a secondary entrance having a small, single story colonnaded porch. At the rear of the building is a cluster of one and two story wings, the latter of frame construction and evidently fairly old, although probably not contemporary with the main block.

By the 1930s, when the house was recorded for the Historic American Buildings Survey, the interior had already been extensively altered. Further modifications were made when it was converted for its present use—an American Legion headquarters, with restaurant and bar on the first floor. Even so, vestiges of the original central hall plan remain, as do portions of the original woodwork. Excepting construction of the various additions on the south end of the building, the exterior has survived intact. At this writing it is being refurbished.



ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		•
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1848		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
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Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	-

The Lain house is one of Waukesha County's most impressive Greek Revival buildings and one of the few temple-style residences remaining in south-eastern Wisconsin.

Because the original owner, Isaac Lain, was a carpenter by profession, it is assumed that he was involved in the design and construction of his home. According to Waukesha historian Willard S. Griswold, Lain came to Wisconsin from New York State in 1842 and after working as a carpenter-contractor for a few years, embarked on a career in real estate and insurance. He was also an organizer and officer of the Waukesha Woolen Mill, Griswold reports, and was active in local and state government, serving terms as village president, county board chairman, and assemblyman. A later owner, Edward R. Estburg, was mayor of Waukesha from 1914 to 1919, president of the First National Bank from 1918 to 1938, and long-time proprietor of what is now the city's oldest retail business—the jewelry firm founded by his father in 1858. For the past thirty years the building has belonged to the D. J. Martin Post No. 8 of the American Legion and has served as a clubhouse.

The Lain house was recorded in data-pages, photograph, and measured drawings for the archives of the Historic American Buildings Survey in the mid-1930s and has been awarded a marker by the Waukesha County Historical Society.



	BIBLIOGRAPHIC	
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Griswold, Willard S., "Old Waukesha Buildings," Landmark, XII, No. 2, Spring, 1969, 6-7.

Historic American Buildings Survey, Wisconsin Architecture, Washington, 1965, 76-77.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Wisconsin	
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Waukesha	
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ENTRY NUMBER.	DATE
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

LAIN, ISAAC, HOUSE

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (State)

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

October 10, 1974

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55

